

DAT notes for March 15, 2012

Attendees: Edmund Yu and Loi Tran (DWR), Lucinda Shih and Shing Kong (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (CDFG), Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Owen Lu and RG Fernando(MWD), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA), Allison Febbo and Terry Erlewine (SWC)

Salmonid Monitoring

| Species* | Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST | Tisdale Weir RST | Knights Landing RST |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Date | 2/26/2012 to 3/10/2012 | 3/8/2012 to 3/14/2012 | 3/8/2012 to 3/14/2012 |
| CHNF | 268,842 | 1 | 2 |
| CHNLF | | | |
| CHNW | 435 | | |
| CHNS | 5,488 | 1 | 1 |
| CHN hatchery | | | |
| SH wild | 25 | | |
| SH hatchery | | | 1 |
| *Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead | | | |

A summary of Chinook monitoring data can be found at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

Delta Monitoring

| Trawl and Seine Report for 3/4/2012 to 3/10/2012 | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Species* | Beach Seines | Mossdale KDTR | Sacramento KDTR | Chippys Is MWTR |
| CHNF | 162 | | | |
| CHNLF | | | | |
| CHNW | | | | 3 |
| CHNS | 2 | | | |
| CHN hatchery | | | | |
| SH wild | | | | |
| SH hatchery | | | 4 | 4 |
| DSM | | | 1 | 15 (61-85mm, 2 w/eggs) |
| LFS | | | | 4 (95-120 mm, 1 w/milt, 1 w/eggs) |
| SPLT | 5 | 2 | | 1 |
| *Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail | | | | |

Salvage

| Salmonids - Salvage report for 3/5/2012 to 3/11/2012 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| | CVP | | | | SWP | | | |
| Species | Adipose Clip Hatchery | | Non-Adipose Clip Wild | | Adipose Clip Hatchery | | Non-Adipose Clip Wild | |
| | Salvage | Loss | Salvage | Loss | Salvage | Loss | Salvage | Loss |
| CHNF | | | | | | | 4 | 16 |
| Total to Date | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 16 |
| CHNLF | | | | | | | | |
| Total to Date | 24 | 20 | 19 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CHNW | 3 | 3 | 43 | 38 | 21 | 89 | 164 | 708 |
| Total to Date | 177 | 133 | 104 | 87 | 197 | 876 | 237 | 1033 |
| CHNS | | | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| Total to Date | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SH | 32 | | 8 | | 32 | | | |
| Total to Date | 114 | | 14 | | 75 | | 16 | |
| Chinook race based on length; Adipose fin clips indicates hatchery stock; Non-adipose clip indicates natural origin. SWP steelhead loss = salvage x 4.33, CVP steelhead loss = salvage x 0.68. | | | | | | | | |

| Smelts and Others – Salvage report for 3/5/2012 to 3/11/2012 | | | | |
|--|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | CVP | | SWP | |
| Species | Salvage | Total to Date | Salvage | Total to Date |
| DSM | 12 | 98 | 28 | 88 |
| LFS | 44 | 56 | 12 | 12 |
| SPLT | 12 | 235 | 8 | 3,818 |
| GST | | 0 | | 0 |
| WST | | 64 | | 0 |
| DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon | | | | |

No larval delta smelt < 20 mm FL were reported in larval fish samples through 3/11/2012 at the federal facility and through 0900 hours on 3/8/2012 at the state facility.

Larval longfin smelt were found in larval fish samples at the federal facility during the period from 3/5/2012 to 3/11/2012 and at the state facility during the period from 2100 hours on 3/1/2012 to 0900 hours on 3/8/2012. Since Sunday, both facilities have continued to salvage longfin smelt.

Salvage information is posted at <ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/> (you can also try <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx>) and click on "salvage FTP site". Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon salvage data is located in the tables under the folder "DOSS salvage tables". Smelt salvage data is located under the folder "Daily Smelt Summary".

Smelt Monitoring

Spring Kodiak Trawl #3 was completed on March 8. It was a partial survey, so CDFG only sampled at 28 of the 40 stations. Based on preliminary results, most of the delta smelt are still pre-spawning. Full results on stage, number spent, and sex will be reported later since the data is still being QA/QC'd. After the DAT call, CDFG reported a total of 294 delta smelt caught at 10 of the stations.

Spring Kodiak Trawl #4 was scheduled on April 16, but is now scheduled for April 2. Spring Kodiak Trawl data will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

Smelt Larva Survey #5 was completed on March 8. It was a partial survey, so 25 of the 35 normal stations were sampled. There were 1,515 longfin smelt larvae. The highest catches were downstream of the confluence.

Smelt Larva Survey #6 is scheduled for March 19. Smelt Larva Survey data will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

Smelt Larva Survey #6 is scheduled for March 19.

The 20 mm Survey #1 began this week on March 12 and #2 is scheduled on March 25. The 20 mm Survey data will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met again on Monday (March 12) to review hydrological conditions, monitoring data, and existing constraints from the pumps. No recommendations were made. The existing conditions are sufficient, so no changes in operations are necessary for both longfin and delta smelt.

DOSS

The DOSS working group met on Tuesday (March 13) and advises to continue implementing RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow of no more negative than -2,500 cfs) until there are 3 consecutive days below the loss-density trigger for older juvenile Chinook loss density. Based on Monday's preliminary data, the earliest that the action could be relaxed would be Thursday, March 15. No change in operations is necessary until then. DOSS will review the salvage data on Thursday and determine whether to continue the action.

On Thursday morning, the preliminary loss density for Wednesday (March 14) came in well below the 5.0 fish/TAF criteria for the second stage trigger in the NMFS BiOp. This is the third day below the second stage trigger (Monday at 4.03 fish/TAF and Tuesday at 4.0 fish/TAF); therefore, the OMR criteria can be relaxed to no more negative than -3,500 pursuant to RPA Action IV.2.3. The projects are scheduling a change in operations starting on Saturday, March 17.

Lastly, DOSS also advises clarifying last week's (March 6) advice to reflect that a new 5-day action had not occurred, but rather the action was a continuation of the second-stage (-2,500 cfs OMR flow) action that began on February 24.

Operations

| Summary for March 15, 2012 | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| SWP | | CVP | |
| Clifton Court (cfs) | 600 | Jones Pumping Plant (cfs) | 2,000 |
| Outflow (cfs) | 12,000 | American - Nimbus (cfs) | 1,100 |
| Feather - Oroville (cfs) | 1,750 | Sacramento - Keswick (cfs) | 3,700 |
| San Luis Total (TAF) | 1,714 | Stanislaus - Goodwin (cfs) | |
| San Luis Share (TAF) | 988 | San Luis Share (TAF) | |
| X2 (Km) | 79 | | |
| E/I (%) | 20.9 | | |
| OMR (daily) | | | |
| OMR 5 day (cfs) | -2,549 | | |
| OMR 14 day (cfs) | -2,079 | | |

Daily operations summary can be viewed at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>

Given that OMR is going to be relaxed, SWP operations is thinking about increasing exports by an extra 200 to 400 cfs. By Friday, Clifton Court inflow might be at 800 to 1,000 cfs, but this is currently in discussion at DWR.

On the CVP side, USBR is set to increase its pumping to approximately 2,800 cfs on Saturday.

Vernalis is projected to be at around 1,700 cfs, which is a slight increase from yesterday. Based on the guidance plots, it might peak out at about 1,800 cfs.

After the DAT call, an update on the construction of the Head of Old River Barrier (HORB) was e-mailed out to the DAT e-mail reflector. The construction of the HORB began on March 14. The contractor expects to complete the construction by the target date of April 1.

Next meeting: The next DAT conference call is scheduled for March 22, 2012 at 11:00am.